

No. 118
Newsletter
10/2023

KOMPASS



Info-Plattform der antirassistischen Bewegung

Hot Spot System collapsed - Maldusa on the situation on Lampedusa +++ 3 and 11 October: 10 years after the 2013 shipwrecks +++ 6-8 October: Actions against GEAS +++ Pro Asyl on the new „crisis regulation“ +++ 10-11 October in Brussels: Moving Cities/Solidarity Cities reshaping migration +++ 27-29 October in Bologna: next meeting of the Transnational Social Strike Platform +++ 28.10.-1.11.: Nationwide action days against the „Asylbewerberleistungsgesetz“ +++ Echoes No.8 - Struggles for Freedom of Movement +++ Refugees in Libya - new structures, new campaign +++ Relaunch of the Welcome to Europe Webguide +++

Dear friends.



Credit: Maldusa

Put Ursula von der Leyen in a small life raft on the Mediterranean Sea for just a few hours. Locking up Nancy Faeser and Annalena Baerbock (the German ministers responsible for CEAS) in a detention camp in Sicily for just one day. Knock out at least one of the teeth of Friedrich Merz (who try to make responsible refugees for waiting times at dentists)...

Who doesn't have such fantasies in

view of the new wave of racist agitation and inhuman laws? Unbearable statements and proposals by politicians of almost all political parties dominate all media. The ruling poly-crisis - war and climate, lack of housing and lack of social services - is looking for its scapegoats and - what a surprise - finds them in the flight and migration movements.

We remain at the side of those who make it across the borders despite and against all escalated violence in the Mediterranean or the Balkans, despite and against all attempts of externalisation and criminalisation. It is communities and migration chains that have grown up, with and in which those seeking protection and prospects assert themselves. More than 200,000 asylum seekers have made their way to Germany this year by the end of August, even though the Frontex budget will soon reach the billion mark. Over 130,000 people have arrived in Italy via the central Mediterranean, even though post-fascists rule there. This must not only be recognised as a daily struggle for appropriation, but also supported (further): by any means necessary!



Credit: Maldusa

In the September issue of Kompass, we had already focused on the arrivals in Lampedusa. In view of the incredible dynamics of the last few weeks, we want and need to do it again. „With 112 landings and more than 5000 people on the move reaching Lampedusa in one single day, the 12th of September 2023 marked a new level of breaking through the Central Mediterranean borders. ... It

remembers - not in its dimension but in its moments and spirit - the summer of migration in the Aegean Sea and on the Balkan route in 2015: a volatile situation of, on the one hand, humanitarian crises, border violence, and deaths at sea, and on the other hand, the powerful struggle for freedom of movement with thousands of people overcoming the violent and racist border regime.“

We would like to continue these introductory lines of the new issue of "Echoes" with a longer quote from a current text at medico international: "...The camp for refugees on



Credit: Maldusa

Lampedusa, called a "hotspot" and surrounded by a fence, officially has space for 389 people. But on 12 September alone, 112 makeshift boats from Tunisia with a total of more than 5,000 people reached the Italian island in the Mediterranean. In a single day, the population of the island doubled, the capacity of the camp, which was already far too small, was blown up, the high fences were overcome.

Now the people who had previously been made invisible stand in the midst of residents and tourists - and they experience solidarity. Brought out of the invisibility of the camp, the helpfulness of the people on Lampedusa awakens with the people. Our partner organisation Maldusa, which supports the arrivals on Lampedusa, describes how the refugees are provided with blankets, water, pizzas and arancini are served, volunteers clarify needs and how they are met... While we are once again stunned by an escalating discourse of fear of migration, Lampedusa - just like the welcoming of the Syrians in 2015 or the Ukrainians in 2022 - shows how friendly and helpful dealing with people on the move can be. A reason to hope for a Europe of openness and support, of arrival and of enabling access to rights that every human being in this world is entitled to by birth."

In this spirit, with greetings of solidarity,
The Kompass Team



DATES AND INFORMATION FOR OCTOBER 2023

HOT SPOT SYSTEM COLLAPSED - MALDUSA ON THE SITUATION IN LAMPEDUSA

„Over the past two days, however, without police teams in manhunt mode, Lampedusa streets, public spaces, benches and bars, have been filled with encounters, conversations, pizzas and coffees offered by local inhabitants. Without hotspots and segregation mechanisms, Lampedusa becomes a space for enriching encounters and spontaneous acts of solidarity between locals and newly arrived people. Trays of fish ravioli, arancini, pasta, rice and couscous enter the small room next to the church, where volunteers try to guarantee as many meals as possible to people who, taken to the hotspot after disembarkation, had been unable to access food and water for three days. These scenes were unthinkable only a few days before. Since the beginning of the pandemic, which led to the end of the era of the 'hotspot with a hole', newly-arrived people could not leave the detention centre, and it became almost impossible to imagine an open hotspot, with people walking freely through the city. Last night, 14 September, on Via Roma, groups of people who would never have met last week danced together with joy and complicity.- These days, practice precedes all rhetoric, and what is happening shows that Lampedusa can be a beautiful island in the Mediterranean Sea rather than a border, that its streets can be a place of welcoming and encounter without a closed centre that stifles any space for self-managed solidarity....

FULL REPORT HERE: [HTTPS://WWW.MALDUSA.ORG/L/THE-FALL-OF-THE-LAMPEDUSA-HOTSPOT-](https://www.maldusa.org/l/the-fall-of-the-lampedusa-hotspot-people-s-freedom-and-locals-solidarity/)

[PEOPLE-S-FREEDOM-AND-LOCALS-SOLIDARITY/](https://www.maldusa.org/l/the-fall-of-the-lampedusa-hotspot-people-s-freedom-and-locals-solidarity/)

WEITERE BERICHTE VON MALDUSA HIER: [HTTPS://WWW.MALDUSA.ORG/EN/NEWS/](https://www.maldusa.org/en/news/)



LAMPEDUSA - WELCOME TO EUROPE How an island counteracts the anti-migration discourse in Europe.

By Kerem Schamberger

The small Italian island of Lampedusa in September. Thousands of people who had set out to sea in view of the good weather conditions of the past few days populate the streets of the only town. They sleep on open-air squares, on the floor or on hastily brought cots. They can no longer be locked up, as the European border regime actually provides for...."

FULL TEXT (ONLY IN GERMAN) HERE:

[HTTPS://WWW.MEDICO.DE/BLOG/WILLKOMMEN-IN-EUROPA-19215](https://www.medico.de/blog/willkommen-in-europa-19215)



ARRIVALS IN LAMPEDUSA: SOLIDARITY AND RESISTANCE IN THE FACE OF EUROPE'S RECEPTION CRISIS!

Joint Statement, September 18, 2023

Following the arrival of a record number of people on the move in Lampedusa, civil society expresses its deep concern at the security response of European states, the crisis of reception, and reaffirms its solidarity with people on the move arriving in Europe...

FULL TEXT HERE: [HTTPS://ALARMPHONE.ORG/EN/2023/09/18/ARRIVALS-IN-LAMPEDUSA/?](https://alarmphone.org/en/2023/09/18/arrivals-in-lampedusa/)

POST_TYPE_RELEASE_TYPE=POST

TEN YEARS AFTER THE TWO HORRIBLE SHIPWRECKS IN OCTOBER 2013 - THE MURDEROUS EU BORDER REGIME NEVER STOPPED KILLING...



Two big horrible shipwrecks took place ten years ago near Lampedusa. 368 people drowned on the 3rd of October 2013 close to the shores of the Italian island. Eight days later, while the crocodile tears of politicians in front of the hundreds of coffins had just dried, the authorities did not follow the desperate SOS calls of another boat about 70 nm south off Lampedusa. 268 people died on the 11th of October

2013, because Italian and Maltese coast guards and navy refused assistance. An Italian naval vessel only 17 nautical miles away was deliberately ordered to NOT approach the scene by the Italian Maritime Rescue Operations Centre.

Against this background in December 2022, more than nine years after this crime, the Court of Rome ruled that the Italian coast guard and navy were guilty of manslaughter and negligence resulting in failure to rescue, and thus responsible for the death of 268 refugees. The two Captains accused were finally not convicted because the case was time-barred, as the trial was brought beyond the limitations period. However, a Landmark court ruling confirmed once again: People in distress at sea must always be rescued from drowning! But what has been the consequences?

Latest since the 2017-deal of Italy with Libyan militias a systematic push- and pull back regime was established. Thus every day the live of people, for whom safe passages remain blocked, are under additional risk. Non assistance in the meanwhile became a daily practice of maltese and italian coast guards. Thus thousands of refugees and migrants died or perished by drowning during last years. A cruel deterrent policy was and is the norm and two more recent tragedies underline the continuity of the deathly „shield of Europe“ (von der Leyen).



At 26th of February 2023 at least 94 people drowned near Cutro at the coast of Calabria.



On 14th of June 2023 more than 600 refugees and migrants disappeared at sea near the greek island of Pylos. In both cases the respective authorities did not react in time or even - as stated by several Pylos-survivors - directly caused the shipwreck by towing the vessel. Its pure hypocrisy, when politicians appear dismayed after such massacres at sea. Every 3rd of October we still can follow the same pseudo show. The true faces of politicians like von der Leyen or Meloni come out, when they try to buy in a Tunisian president for the further brutalization of the border regime. Or when they threaten - whatever it should mean - with naval sea blockades.

Together with survivors and relatives of the victims we will not stop to denounce the responsible politicians and authorities for the ongoing massacres. A medium to mourn, to remember and to accuse in the same time are CommemorActions. One more will take place around the 11th of October 2023 in Lampedusa.

6.-8. OCTOBER SEEBRÜCKE/SEA-BRIDGE - ACTIONS AGAINST GEAS

Navigation bar: SEEBRÜCKE MACH MITI AKTIONEN MATERIAL SICHERE HÄFEN AKTUELLES ÜBER UNS SPENDEN

AKTUELLES - KAMPAGNEN

Aktionswochenende 6.-8.10.:
Nein zur Krisenverordnung, Stoppt Geas!

This is just the beginning - Call for a nationwide anti-GEAS action weekend on 6.10.-8.10.2023.

The European Union and the German government want to de facto abolish the right to asylum. With the reform of the Common European Asylum System (CEAS), people seeking protection will be prevented from applying for asylum in the EU in the future. An individual examination will be pre-

vented and deportations to camps at the EU's external borders and to third countries will be facilitated.

In fact, this means that the Geneva Refugee Convention will be "undermined" and people fleeing war, persecution and poverty will have hardly any chance of a decent life. We demand: Every person must have the right to an individual asylum application and a life in safety!



On the weekend of 6-8 October 2023, there will be nationwide actions and protests against these illegal and inhuman plans of the traffic light government and the European Union. Join us and let's show the powerful that they can't do the maths without us. STOP GEAS - For a Europe that builds bridges!

MORE INFORMATION HERE: [HTTPS://WWW.SEEBRUECKE.ORG/AKTUELLES/KAMPAGNEN/STOPPT-GEAS-KRISENVERORDNUNG](https://www.seebruecke.org/aktuelles/kampagnen/stoppt-geas-krisenverordnung)

PRO ASYL ON THE NEW CRISIS REGULATION - NEGOTIATION THRILLER IN BRUSSELS: FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AGREES TO TOXIC CRISIS REGULATION

"At the meeting of the EU interior ministers, there was a political agreement on the crisis regulation, but the formal decision is still pending. Italy has announced the need for further negotiations. The stakes are high for those seeking protection, as their human rights are being turned into bargaining chips.

Actually, the Council meeting of the EU interior ministers on Thursday, 28 September 2023 was only supposed to produce a "progress report" on the negotiations on the reform of the Common European Asylum System. In June, the member states had already agreed on a large part of the proposals - a breakthrough after a long negotiation stalemate, which was made at the expense of the human rights of fleeing people. For many people seeking protection, the member states' vision of the future means asylum border procedures under detention conditions - PRO ASYL explains here in a fact check that this can also affect refugees from countries like Syria and Afghanistan. Deportations to unsafe third countries and still no form of solidarity. The federal government also agreed here, the co-governing Greens still with a "stomach ache". But no agreement was reached on a regulation at first, until suddenly on Thursday the so-called crisis regulation was put up for debate. It provides for a far-reaching waiver of the asylum rules in the event of an (imminent) crisis or "force majeure". In addition, the member states added special rules for the case of "instrumentalisation of migration", which were not foreseen in the original proposals at all. For years now, member states have been trying to use supposedly exceptional conditions at the external borders to get out of their human rights obligations, and this is exactly what the crisis regulation stands for...."

FULL STATEMENT AND MORE INFORMATION ON GEAS (IN GERMAN):

[HTTPS://WWW.PROASYL.DE/NEWS/VERHANDLUNGSKRIMI-IN-BRUESSEL-BUNDESREGIERUNG-STIMMT-TOXISCHER-KRISENVERORDNUNG-ZU/](https://www.proasyl.de/news/verhandlungskrimi-in-bruessel-bundesregierung-stimmt-toxischer-krisenverordnung-zu/)

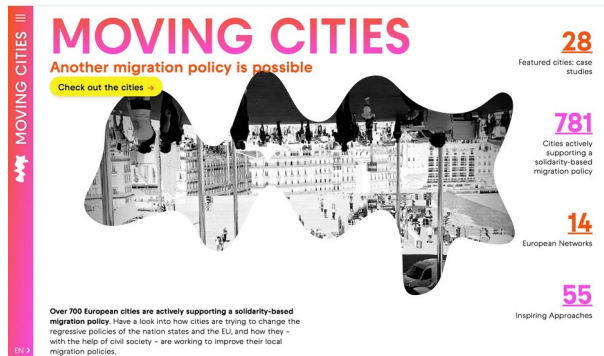
MOVING CITIES - HEADING INTO THE 2024 ELECTIONS

Solidarity cities reshaping migration in Europe - 10—11 October 2023, Brussels

This June, the EU Council reached an agreement on the Common European Asylum System. If enacted, this legislative proposal would have a serious impact on the individual right to asylum. In contrast, cities across Europe are on the frontline, doing the lion's share of the integration work. In recent years, they have joined forces in city networks to advocate for a progressive, human rights-based approach to migration policy in the EU.



Ahead of the 2024 EU Elections, Moving Cities invites you to a two-day political discussion and networking event in Brussels. High-ranking local politicians, city officials and city networks, including the International Alliance of Safe Harbours (IASH) and the National



Association of Welcoming Cities and Territories (ANVITA), will have the opportunity to exchange, meet and connect with members of the European Parliament and the EU Commission. Together we aim to bring about a strategic shift in EU migration policy to be more welcoming....

REGISTRATION AND MORE HERE:

[HTTPS://MOVING-CITIES.EU/NEWS/SOLIDARITY-CITIES-RESHAPING-MIGRATION-IN-EUROPE](https://moving-cities.eu/news/solidarity-cities-reshaping-migration-in-europe)

VOM 27. - 29. OCTOBER IN BOLOGNA: NEXT MEETING OF THE TRANSNATIONAL SOCIAL STRIKE PLATFORM

„Breaking the Barrier: Confronting the Transnational Dimension

For the past year and a half, the war in Ukraine and its widespread consequences have impacted the spaces and possibilities of political organizing. In the wake of pandemic, a global crisis in social reproduction, and the escalating effects of the climate crisis, the consequences of war politics at a world scale are now being felt in the lives of migrants, workers, women and LGBTQI+ people well beyond the war zones. While fostering nationalism, the war highlights the prominence of what happens across borders. To resist and



refuse the politics of war, we need to build a common horizon and face the question of what it means to organize transnationally. For these reasons, after the meetings in Sofia and Frankfurt, we call to meet again in Bologna on the 27-29 October....“

DER GESAMTE EINLADUNGSTEXT SOWIE ANMELDUNG HIER:

[HTTPS://WWW.TRANSNATIONAL-STRIKE.INFO/2023/06/30/BREAKING-THE-BARRIER-CONFRONTING-THE-TRANSNATIONAL-DIMENSION/](https://www.transnational-strike.info/2023/06/30/breaking-the-barrier-confronting-the-transnational-dimension/)

28.10.-1.11.2023 GERMANWIDE DAYS OF ACTION AGAINST THE „ASYLBEWERBERLEISTUNGSGESETZ“ (ASYLUM SEEKERS' BENEFITS ACT).

Social rights for ALL! End all exclusion!

A broad majority of the parties represented in the Bundestag responded to the racist attacks against refugees in the early 1990s with agitation and exclusion: the basic right to asylum was undermined and a discriminatory special law, the Asylum Seekers Benefits Act (AsylbLG), was passed. For the first time, a certain population group was excluded from federal social assistance and intensive socio-political interventions in basic and hu-

man rights were legitimised by law. Those affected were ultimately forced to live precariously in substandard conditions. Even contact with cash was prohibited by the principle of benefits in kind. For 19 years, the minimum (in-kind) benefits granted were not raised.



1 November marks the 30th anniversary of the entry into force of the exclusionary law. We take this as an opportunity to take the demands for the abolition of the AsylbLG and all socio-political exclusion to the streets. Sign the CALL and take part in the action week from 28.10. - 01.11.2023.

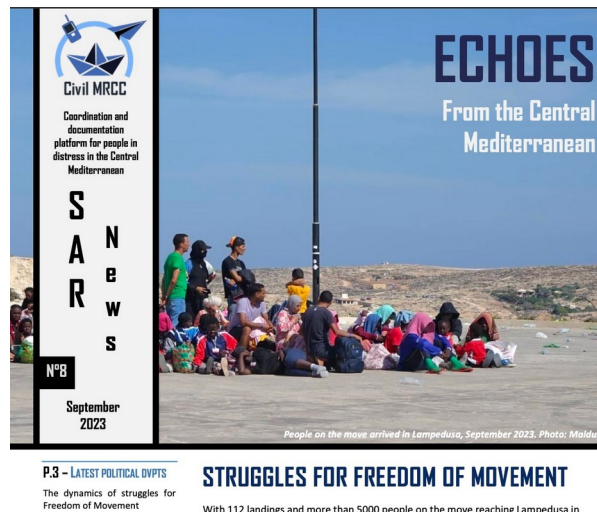
REGISTER YOUR ACTIONS AND SIGNATURES TO INFO@ASYLBLG-ABSCHAFFEN.DE

MORE INFORMATION HERE: [HTTPS://ASYLBEWERBERLEISTUNGSGESETZ-ABSCHAFFEN.DE/](https://ASYLBEWERBERLEISTUNGSGESETZ-ABSCHAFFEN.DE/)

ECHOES NO.8: STRUGGLES FOR FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT

Table of contents

- LATEST POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS - The dynamics of Struggles for Freedom of Movement
- IT MAKES A DIFFERENCE – Diary of cooperation at sea – July and August 2023 cases
- FORCED TO DISAPPEAR - The deficient system for identification and burial in a dignified manner
- LEGAL FRAGMENT - The new EU 10 points action plan - Human rights as a missing discourse
- INTERVIEW - Activists from the Alarm Phone Network
- AMPLIFYING VOICES – From the boat to the plane: a journey of injustice (testimony of a man deported from Italy to Tunisia)
- CRIMINALISATION
 - Joint statement “Urgent warning: increased deaths at sea, NGO vessels detained”
 - Press release “The Italian government’s threat against the Mare Jonio”
- MOBILISATIONS
 - 10th Anniversary of October 2013 shipwrecks



- Joint statement "Arrivals in Lampedusa: solidarity and resistance in the face of Europe's reception crisis!"
- Solidarity statement "Solidarity with the victims of the Libyan flooding"

[HTTPS://CIVILMRCC.EU/ECHOES-FROM-THE-CENTRAL-MEDITERRANEAN/ECHOES-ISSUE-8-SEPTEMBER-2023/](https://civilmrcc.eu/echoes-from-the-central-mediterranean/echoes-issue-8-september-2023/)

REFUGEES IN LIBYA - NEW STRUCTURES, NEW CAMPAIGN



On 1 October 2023, the second anniversary of the beginning of the historic protest of self-organised refugees in Tripoli, the Alliance with Refugees in Libya had invited to an online event in which those affected in Libya described the current situation and presented new structures and a new campaign.

From the invitation:

„Two years ago, on 1st of October 2021 a huge sit-in protest started in Tripoli in front of the UNHCR building. In this struggle the self-organised

movement of Refugees in Libya was born with the main demands for refugees' rights and evacuation to safe countries. For this reason they were punished and imprisoned in the Ain Zara detention center. The mobilization of human rights activists in Libya and Europe brought to their release in July 2023, after 18 long months. But it is not over yet. Today they are in the same situation as when they started the struggle in front of UNHCR in Tripoli. Two years later, on 1st of October 2023, we want to invite you to discuss with our comrades from Libya about the future perspectives and the beginning of a campaign to demand the evacuation of the 221 Human Rights Defenders. We will hear about their actual condition as well as the latest situation in Libya. We will discuss with our comrades about the Human Rights Defenders campaign and outline the new course of the "Alliance with Refugees in Libya" ..."

WEBSITES: WWW.REFUGEESINLIBYA.ORG + WWW.UNFAIRAGENCY.ORG

WELCOME TO EUROPE - RELAUNCH OF THE WEBGUIDE

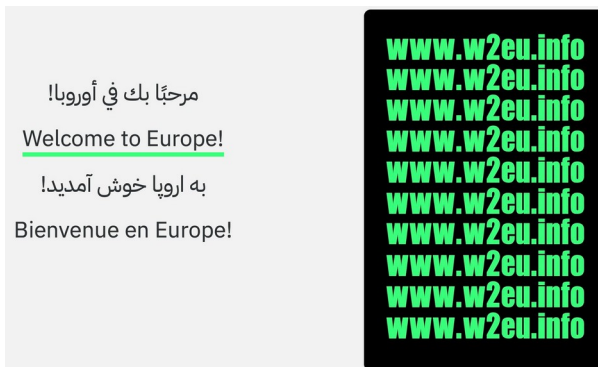
For freedom of movement: Independent information for refugees and migrants coming to Europe

On 20th of September 2023 the quadrilingual webguide of the network Welcome to Europe was relaunched: "w2eu.info provides information to refugees and migrants that might be useful on their journey to and through Europe. We want to give access to counseling and useful contacts in different European countries. (...) We welcome all travellers on their difficult trip and wish all of them a good journey - because freedom of movement is everybody's right!"



These sentences, which have been drafted years ago, are still valid to describe the basic idea of the project, which was founded already in 2010, which is still online and now with updated information, with a renewed design and new mapping tools.

Brief history of w2eu



The project of w2eu started already in 2010, born in the common struggles during the noborder camp 2009 in Lesvos: „...to build daily structures and to provide useful multilingual information to empower and to support refugees and migrants in transit for their right to move to their desired destination“. In 2019 a 10-years brochure was published, in

which the history of the network was presented:

[HTTP://INFOMOBILE.W2EU.NET/FILES/2019/07/W2EU-10YEARS-BOOKLET-EN-201906-SCREEN.PDF](http://infomobile.w2eu.net/files/2019/07/w2eu-10years-booklet-en-201906-screen.pdf)

In the same year, in summer 2019, Welcome to Europe initiated the first Transborder Summer Camp as a meeting point to discuss solidarity on the routes with the approach to build and extend infrastructures for freedom of movement: <https://transborder.net/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/TSC-brosch%C3%BCre-202004-screen.pdf>

In 2020 the w2eu-network got less active and tired, also affected by the consequences of Covid. But in a workshop during the second Transborder Summer Camp in July 2022 new people joined and the reorganization of the project started. Now, until September 2023, the contact-lists of most country- and border sections were updated again.

MORE INFORMATION, INCLUDING A RELAUNCH VIDEO CLIP: [HTTPS://W2EU.INFO/EN](https://w2eu.info/en)